

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 22, 2004. Claims 1 and 3 to 14, of which Claims 1, 11 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Replacement sheets for Figures 1, 3 and 10 are submitted herewith, so as to address the objections lodged against those figures. Specifically, Figure 1 has been labeled "Prior Art", and reference numerals in Figure 3 have been changed so as to avoid redundant use of reference numerals 61 through 65 and 65a. The labeling for rollers 7a and 7b have been switched in Figure 10. Approval of these drawing sheets is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended so as to address the objections lodged at page 3 of the Office Action. In addition, reference numerals on pages 13 and 14 have been amended for consistency with the new reference numerals in the replacement sheet for Figure 3. However, with respect to the objection to the phrase "in the direction vertical to a paper surface", no change has been made, since it is believed that th phrase is perfectly clear.

Claims 6 and 9 have been amended to improve clarity, and withdrawal of the objections lodged against them is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, the subject matter of Claim 2 has been added into independent Claim 1, with clarifying amendments that are believed to address the § 112 rejection. Claim 2 has

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please approve the attached replacement sheets for Figures 1, 3 and 10, in which Figure 1 has been labeled “Prior Art”, reference numerals in Figure 3 have been changed for consisting with changes made to pages 13 and 14 in the specification, and reference numerals 7a and 7b have been switched in Figure 10.

consequently been cancelled, and withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is therefor respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her allowance of Claims 11 to 14.

Claims 1, 4 to 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,534,902 (Hoesly). As indicated above, Claim 1 has been amended to include the substance of dependent Claim 2. However, this amendment has been made without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the § 102(b) rejection. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejection, as detailed below.

The invention concerns the arrangement of components in a printing apparatus which includes a printing agent container, printing means, and a pair of paper-conveying rollers for conveying a printing medium. According to one aspect of the invention, the following are all arranged on a same straight line: a printing region opposite to the printing medium in which a plurality of printing elements of the printing means are arranged, at least a part of a paper-conveying roller region occupied with the paper conveying rollers, and at least a part of a printing agent region in which the printing agent container is located. The straight line is contained in the printing region plane, and the components are further arranged such that the part of the paper-conveying roller region is interposed between the printing region plane and the part of the printing agent region.

A representative embodiment of the invention is seen in Figure 4. As shown there, it is clear that a paper-conveying roller region is interposed between a printing

region plane and a printing agent region. In Figure 4, the printing means and the printing agent container are joined so as to straddle the paper-conveying rollers.

The applied Hoesly patent is not seen to disclose or to suggest such an arrangement. Hoesly shows a pair of paper conveying rollers 24 and 40 for transporting a recording medium past printhead 12 which is supplied with ink from ink tank 32.

However, Hoesly is not seen to show at least the feature that at least part of a paper-conveying roller region is interposed between a printing region plane and at least part of a printing agent region. Allowance of Claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested.

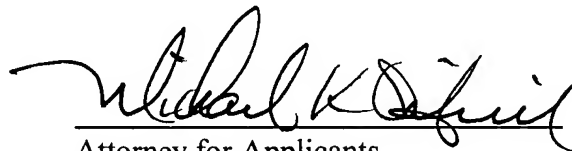
An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment.

Consideration of the art cited therein is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Michael K. O'Neill
Registration No.: 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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